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To: Planning Department
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Commissioners: For Agenda Item 40. Oral Request and Public Comments on Thursday 10-13-22

Current happenings – per the Bi-partisan Infrastructure Bill – eight billion dollars has been set aside to develop green hydrogen. In California, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) is planning to institute banning select natural gas appliances by 2030 and to be adopted by 2025.

As regards to today's planning challenges such as EV charging stations, potential Hydrogen Fuel Cell service stations, and the potential change over from natural gas to hydrogen gas for homes, commercial and industrial uses; the necessary planning decisions for these scenarios will more than likely require looking at things in a new light. There are currently two to three Pilot Programs in Oregon at generating Blue and Green Hydrogen. One collaboration is with Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) and NW Natural Gas. Another is in Klamath Falls at the Klamath Falls Electric Cogeneration Plant that has partnered with Avangrid to produce and store hydrogen gas to act as a backup source for keeping the plant on-line. These parties tend to agree that the actual time frame for the general use of hydrogen to come up to scale is about ten years out.

With this in mind, it would behoove all to plan ahead for the potential change from the fossil fuel natural gas to clean energy hydrogen. Currently, the limit on the hydrogen blend percentage before possible existing pipeline damage results is still under study. However, apparently today, there does exist gas distribution pipelines (like yellow polyethylene) that can handle the delivery of 100% of hydrogen. It seems common sense for any new planned developments that underground pipelines that can support future hydrogen delivery be put in place today. I'm not sure what Avista specifies for their natural gas distribution pipelines, but it only seems reasonable, if it can be done with pipelines rated to support 100% hydrogen, then it should be used for all installations. Hopefully, this application should eventually be applied throughout the United States.

Sincerely – Gary Sumrak – 2485 Pinebrook Circle, Medford, OR 97504